P. Cryer, Gene
(orig under Lauder)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Phone: (703) 351-7676

Mr. Gene Cryer
Editor
Ft. Lauderdale News
P.O. Box 14430
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33302

Dear Mr. Cryer:

Your editorial of 20 June 1985 suggesting that the Central Intelligence Agency wields an arbitrary censorship power over its present and former officials may tend to mislead your readers. All Agency employees accept, as a condition of employment with CIA, that they will submit anything they write about intelligence to pre-publication review. This review process is designed to insure that there is no inadvertent release of classified information, and makes no attempt to alter the views of Agency authors or to correct their errors.

The charges leveled by Admiral Stansfield Turner, suggesting that the CIA insisted that he remove unclassified material from his book, have no validity. Admiral Turner's manuscript was subjected to the same carefully formulated classification standards that have been applied to hundreds of other authors. The Agency's experience with this process, which was indeed instituted by Admiral Turner when he was Director of Central Intelligence, shows that it is only effective when the same standards are applied equally to all.

Your statement that the CIA has not commented publicly on Admiral Turner's charges is incorrect. In fact, the Agency issued a statement on 26 April 1985 about Admiral Turner's allegations, and a copy is attached for your use. The committees of the Congress are well aware of CIA's publications review process, and there has been no effort to sweep this case "under the rug." The Central Intelligence Agency is devoted to providing its consumers--the nation's most senior policy officials--with the truth. It makes no effort to prevent either its critics or its supporters from writing or orally presenting their views, as long as national security is protected.

Sincerely,

George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs

Enclosures